

Even last night I got a call from a friend. Steve, after fighting off lymphoma, got a notice from his insurance company that the policy for his law office was now being canceled, giving him a lot of insecurity about what his future would be and the future of the people who work for him.

This bill would end that kind of discrimination, the discrimination against people with preexisting conditions, and provide security to millions of Americans, Americans like me with multiple sclerosis and many of us with other preexisting conditions.

This is a moral issue for people, people who will now be able to access our health care system. Mr. Speaker, it is a very proud day to be able to take this historic step and end this discrimination.

WE NEED JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Speaker PELOSI told the American people that the misnamed stimulus bill would immediately create jobs and keep unemployment under 8 percent. However, unemployment has now topped 10 percent, with 2.8 million jobs lost since the misidentified stimulus was signed into law.

Despite these staggering numbers, Speaker PELOSI continues to push a job-killing health care takeover. Clearly, Congress has a case of misplaced priorities.

Patricia Owen lives on Hilton Head Island and owns FACES DaySpa. She is just one of the many small business owners who would be negatively impacted if this takeover is passed. With 23 employees at FACES DaySpa, the Owen family appreciates its dedicated staff. The Owen's service-based company will face more punitive taxes in PELOSI's health care takeover.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Thank you, veterans, for victory in the Cold War 20 years ago Monday with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

□ 0915

HISTORIC DAY IN AMERICA

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, today is indeed an historic day, a day we can all be proud that on behalf of the American people we are doing something.

So what is it the American people are going to get? Well, if you're a senior citizen in America, you're going to have \$500 more in your prescription drug benefit. You're going to be able to get your drugs that are brand name for 50 percent less if you're in the doughnut hole. And by 2019, that doughnut hole will be terminated.

What's in it for young people? Well, if you're good to your parents, you can stay on their health insurance until you're 27.

And how about for women? For women, you are no longer going to pay 140 percent more for your health insurance than a man of the same age. And by the way, you don't have to fear getting pregnant, because health insurance will cover your pregnancy.

And for everyone else in America, we are going to be paying \$1,400 less a year in uncompensated care.

There is nothing to fear. There is much to be jubilant about.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF AMERICAN LIVES

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, indeed, this is an historic day. We have a choice today between two bills; one which will have a government takeover of one-sixth of our economy, which will involve the Federal Government into the day-to-day lives of each and every American, or the Republican alternative, which actually goes to the central theme of the problems that we deal with today.

Not only that, senior citizens will be the most hurt by this government takeover of health care; \$500 billion taken out of Medicare, and with not one scintilla of evidence as to where it's going to come from. It will come from access to care, of course. Furthermore, CBO says that part B will increase by \$25 billion, and part D premiums by 20 percent.

I would say, in closing, God help us as the government takes over your day-to-day life.

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is indeed an historic day. As the plaque over the Speaker's rostrum says, In our time and our generation, we should do something worthy to be remembered. Those were Daniel Webster's words, a man who served in this House.

We can fulfill the destiny of other people who have served with us in the Federal Government, from Teddy Roosevelt to Franklin Roosevelt to Harry Truman to Hubert Humphrey and to the recently late Senator Ted Kennedy. This is an important date for America when we bring us into the 21st century. We should have been here 50 or 60 years ago.

It is wrong that our country has an infant mortality rate equal to third-world nations. This bill will set out a newborn program that will try to rectify that. It will see that private practice doctors go into the inner cities, with general practitioners having an incentive to go there. With community

health centers in the inner cities and wellness and prevention programs not having a deductible, it will bring America into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Member of the United States Congress, and never prouder than this weekend.

AMERICANS WANT FREEDOM, NOT GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come today to ask a question: Why do the Democrats come to the floor to belittle the hardworking people who protest this government takeover of health care? They paid their own money, they drove their own cars, they weren't bussed here by the DCCC or the unions. They came to say, Listen to us. Listen to us, Madam Speaker. We don't want a government takeover of our health care system.

They don't want their children's future mortgaged to foreign countries. They don't want people who are not here legally to receive free health care. They want what the Founding Fathers and the Constitution wanted and guaranteed—freedom. What a novel idea—freedom.

HEALTH CARE IS FREEDOM REDEFINED

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk about freedom and liberty over the last couple days in Washington, DC, but the question really is: The person who is sick and can't get health care, are they really free? If you keep getting sick because you can't access a doctor, you can't get better, so you can't go to work, so you can't make money, is that person really free?

In 2009, we need to redefine freedom. Freedom in America in 2009 means being healthy and having access to a health care system that isn't just for the elite, but it's for everybody.

Now, our people are going to get a 15, 20, 30 percent increase. Businesses are going to get a 30 percent increase right now. This is what we're trying to prevent, an \$1,800 increase for the average family of four if we do absolutely nothing.

We're going to wake up in a few weeks in America, no more denials because of preexisting conditions; no more people in America or families in America will go bankrupt. We're going to fix this health care crisis that we have in this country.

VOTE "YES" ON PRO-LIFE AMENDMENT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the Members of the status of the pro-life amendment on the bill today.

Last night, there were lots of negotiations. There were a couple of compromises discussed. I went with my colleagues, BART STUPAK, CHRIS SMITH, MARCY KAPTUR, and KATHY DAHLKEMPER, before the Rules Committee after midnight. The final outcome is this: There will be only one pro-life amendment offered on the floor today. It will be the Stupak-Ellsworth-Pitts-Smith-Kaptur-Dahlkemper amendment that will prevent Federal funds from funding abortions in both the public plan or with affordability credits. It just codifies the Hyde Amendment for the two new programs.

This actually preserves the status quo of our law today. No Federal Government funding for abortions, just like SCHIP, Medicaid, DOD, FEHBP, Indian Health.

This is a bipartisan amendment. The pro-life groups National Right to Life, Catholic Bishops, and family groups all support this. I urge the Members to support this amendment when it comes to the floor today.

PASS HEALTH CARE TODAY

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we are a great Nation, a prosperous and compassionate one, but our health care system doesn't measure up to that greatness. In fact, we pay twice what every other industrialized nation pays, and yet 71 nations have enabled their people to live longer and healthier lives. The difference is that they have decided that the health of their people is a higher priority than the profit of their insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, we, today, will have the opportunity to bring our health care system up to a standard deserving of the greatness of this Nation by controlling our costs, by covering all of our people, and by improving the quality of the care that they receive.

This bill is deserving of the greatness of our Nation. It must pass today.

REPUBLICANS HAVE THE RIGHT PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, despite months of town hall meetings and after millions of Americans voiced their opposition to a government takeover of health care, Democrats in Congress are moving ahead anyway.

Not only does the Pelosi health care plan raise taxes and increase spending, it will vastly grow the size and power of the Federal Government, taking more and more of our freedoms away.

The Pelosi health care plan proposes the creation of more than 110 new bu-

reaucracies, boards, commissions, or programs. More taxes, more spending, and more government is not the plan for reform the people support.

Republicans have a plan that allows us to keep our freedoms and not be dictated to by the Federal Government. It's the right prescription for health care reform.

SAY "YES" TO HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are counting on us to reform this broken health care system. Health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs have risen steadily, and the number of families in trouble over health care continues to grow—48 million uninsured, 50 million underinsured. We simply cannot afford to maintain the status quo.

Those who continue to resist a much-needed change in our health care system are refusing to deal with the problems, and they won't go away if we ignore them.

The health care insurance reforms we are espousing will benefit Americans, including those who are already enrolled. No longer will coverage be denied or hikes go for preexisting conditions. Insurance companies will no longer be able to drop insurance when a policyholder becomes sick, just when a patient needs insurance the most.

There will be a positive emphasis on prevention, with vaccinations, mammograms, and colonoscopies that will be covered with no out-of-pocket expenses. In addition, there will be lower premiums for millions of older Americans who will see the doughnut hole go away.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and vote for this bill.

FIX WHAT'S BROKEN IN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, today is the showdown on a government takeover of health care. And while there are still deals being cut to try to round up the last few votes in the dark of night behind these closed doors, what the American people have said is they want transparency, and they don't want a government takeover of health care.

The American people want to fix the problems that are broken like we do in the Republican alternative we will be presenting that actually lowers costs. The CBO score says 10 percent reduction in health care premium, addressing preexisting conditions, and, yes, we actually do real medical liability reform to lower the cost of health care and stop all of these tests that are run just for defensive medicine purposes.

Just a little while ago, one of my friends on the Democratic side said that he wants to redefine freedom. Well, with all due respect, I think the Founding Fathers got it right. We don't need to go and rewrite freedom and have a government takeover of health care.

Let's fix what's broken, but don't break all the things that make medical care work so well for many Americans in this country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3737, H.R. 1838, H.R. 1845, H. Res. 700, H. Res. 877, in each case de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SMALL BUSINESS MICROLENDING EXPANSION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3737, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3737, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 23, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 876]

YEAS—405

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| Abercrombie | Bishop (NY) | Calvert |
| Ackerman | Bishop (UT) | Camp |
| Aderholt | Blackburn | Cantor |
| Adler (NJ) | Blumenauer | Cao |
| Akin | Blunt | Capito |
| Alexander | Boccieri | Capps |
| Altmire | Boehner | Capuano |
| Andrews | Bonner | Cardoza |
| Arcuri | Bono Mack | Carnahan |
| Austria | Boozman | Carney |
| Baca | Boren | Carson (IN) |
| Bachus | Boswell | Carter |
| Baird | Boucher | Cassidy |
| Baldwin | Boustany | Castle |
| Barrett (SC) | Boyd | Castor (FL) |
| Barrow | Brady (PA) | Chandler |
| Bartlett | Brady (TX) | Childers |
| Barton (TX) | Braley (IA) | Chu |
| Bean | Bright | Clarke |
| Becerra | Brown (SC) | Clay |
| Berkley | Brown, Corrine | Cleaver |
| Berman | Brown-Waite, | Clyburn |
| Berry | Ginny | Coble |
| Biggert | Buchanan | Coffman (CO) |
| Bilbray | Burton (IN) | Cohen |
| Bilirakis | Butterfield | Cole |
| Bishop (GA) | Buyer | Connolly (VA) |